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WE ARE ACHIEVING BIG SUCCESSES

Editor's Note : *The Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces issued on July 1st a communique on PLAF military successes in the first six months of this year. The communique reads in full as follows :*

"MANY important events took place in the first half of this year throughout the Indochinese peninsula reflecting the serious intensification and expansion of the war, and the new setbacks and greater predicament of the US on the one hand and the fresh and very big successes of the revolutionary movement of the three countries of Indochina on the other.

1. In Spring 1970 the armed forces and people in South Viet Nam continued their wide-spread and powerful offensives and uprisings, inflicting heavy losses on both the US and puppet troops, upsetting their "rural pacification" plan and forcing the US to continue its troops withdrawal.

Meanwhile the patriotic army and people in Laos recorded new and splendid feats, recovered many vast areas, especially the Plain of Jars - Xieng Khoang important strategic area, and wiped out a major part of the US - fostered and commanded special forces of Vang Pao.

2. Having sustained repreated setbacks and faced with serious passivity on the South Viet Nam and Lao battlefields, the US imperialists, however, remained obdurate and cunning. In attempt to turn the tide, they master-minded on March 18 a coup d'etat in Cambodia, installed the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak reactionary administration, wrecked Cambodia's independence, neutrality and peace, with a view to pushing up the continued implementation of the "Vietnamization of the war" plan, stamping out the revolutionary movement in Cambodia and turning this country into an American military base and new-type colony.

3. However, the developments in **Cambodia** following the coup d'etat disappointed US hopes. The Cambodian people's revolutionary movement rose more powerfully than ever, driving the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak administration into utter isolation and to the verge of total collapse. Yet, the US imperialists recklessly launched an open armed invasion of Cambodia and expanded their unjust and brutal war to the whole of Indochina. On April 29, they started throwing a big force of US and Saigon troops totalling hundreds of thousands of men into overt large-scale operations along with repeated bombings by B.52 strategic planes, killing and looting Khmer civilians and devastating their land.

It was the US biggest gamble in many years in an attempt to ward off its failure in South Viet Nam and quell the revolutionary movement of the Cambodian people. But it was only a foolish move like extinguishing a fire with oil and quenching one's thirst with poison. The result was that they not only failed to get out of their passive and losing position in South Viet Nam, but even sank into deeper passivity and incurred heavier reverses in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

In **South Viet Nam**, the armed forces and people recorded ever bigger successes and attained a new stage of development in their fight. The strategic balance of forces on the military as well as political front became more and more favourable to them and unfavourable to the enemy.

The revolution of the brotherly **Cambodian** people switched to a new period with leaping strides forward in all spheres and its military, political and diplomatic successes were of great historic significance. The National United Front of Kampuchea and the Royal Government of National Union came into being, the National Liberation armed forces grew up rapidly, beat off the aggressive operations of US and Saigon troops, and wiped out an important part of their manpower. At the same time, they continued to wipe out and disintegrate by big chunks the Lon Nol administration and army. Half of the country with several million inhabitants was freed, forming a vast and firm strategic rear base for their Cambodian people's resistance war.

The brotherly armed forces and people of **Laos**, turning to account their great victory in the Plain of Jars – Xieng Khoang, wiped out 16,000 enemy troops, completely liberated Attopeu and Saravane provinces in Lower Laos and followed up their successes and kept up the initiative throughout the country.

The struggle of the peoples of the three Indochinese countries entered a new stage. Because the US imperialists had widened their aggressive war to the whole of Indochina, the three Indochinese countries united within a people's front to resist them, maintained close relations with one another, assisted one another, in all fields, enlisted sympathy and

(Continued page 2)

The Tiger Cages
page 4

The Ben Hai River
page 5

Let's march forward to win bigger successes

WE ARE ACHIEVING BIG SUCCESSES

These solid fortifications lead to resounding PLAF successes

(Continued from page 1)

support from the progressive people all over the world, and became a great force.

These vivid realities once more demonstrate that the time is gone when the imperialists could submit the people of other countries to their arbitrary will. This is the era of disintegration of imperialism, of triumph of the movements for peace, national liberation, democracy and socialism.

The US imperialists cannot reverse the trend of the struggle on the Indochinese peninsula, because they are sustaining ever heavier setbacks and therefore will meet with total failure. The peoples of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos have been going from one victory to another, and will finally achieve complete victory. In obdurately intensifying and broadening the aggressive war, the US imperialists will meet with due punishment.

In the first six months of 1970, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people:

— Inflicted nearly 230,000 enemy casualties, including 70,000 troops of the US and its satellites;

— Wiped out or heavily decimated over 70 battalions and battalion-sized units, 450 companies, 60 "pacification" teams and groups;

— Shot down or destroyed on the ground 4,200 aircraft;

— Destroyed 10,000 military vehicles including 6,000 tanks or armoured cars;

— Sank 250 boats and motor launches;

— Wrecked 1,500 artillery pieces and heavy mortars;

— Blotted out over 500 storages;

— Seized nearly 8,000 fire-arms of various kinds.

As a result of the military achievements of the brotherly peoples of Laos and Cambodia, and of the South Vietnamese and their armed forces in the recent past, US and puppet passivity, stalemate, and serious contradictions and difficulties in all fields, have been worsened:

1. — They have lost another important part of their manpower and war means, their forces have been spread more thinly and have exposed new vulnerable points.

US casualty rate has remained high.

More and more puppet troops have been pushed to the forefront and sent to the Cambodia battlefield. As a result, their casualties have been mounting, their morale sinking and desertions growing seriously.

Both the American and puppet armies which have greatly weakened in numbers and quality, have moreover been scattered on two battlefields South Viet Nam and Cambodia. Consequently their defensive posture in the mountain, plain and urban areas has revealed new vulnerable points.

2. — The "rural pacification" plan — the main measure in the "Vietnamization" program — has suffered a new serious setback.

In the past six months, millions of persons have risen up and, assisted by the armed forces, liberated, destroyed or broken open most of the enemy's "strategic hamlets" in South Viet Nam. The enemy's "pacification" plan has failed most ignominously in the Mekong delta and the central part of Central Viet Nam — key areas under the "pacification" program.

By flexibly mounting against the enemy military and political actions combined with agitation among enemy ranks, while accelerating the wiping out of cruel agents of the enemy and breaking the enemy's grip, the people have expanded their control or liberated many new and important areas.

3 — The Nixon clique's isolation at home and abroad has aggravated.

The movement of American students and people for an end to the aggressive war in Indochina has been continuously and vigorously stepped up while the anti-war movement among officers and men of the US armed forces has reached unprecedented dimensions.

Nixon's policy of war expansion has also faced strong opposition from American political circles and large numbers of Congressmen of both the Democratic and Republican Parties and even from members of the US government advisors and diplomats, an indication of wider dissensions within the US administration.

US invasion of Cambodia has also been severely condemned by the progressive people all over the world. Even many allies and stooges of the US have shown lukewarm approval.

4. — Faced with the continual and fierce opposition of the town population, the Saigon administration has further weakened, and differences within its ranks have become sharper.

The students and pupils have carried on their persistent and efficacious struggle against the puppet junta. This has spread from Saigon to other towns with high claims and in diversified forms.

The workers' movement has surged up powerfully with indefinite general strikes by hundreds of thousands of workers.

A new development has also been recorded in the Buddhist movement. Co-ordination and mutual support between different movements which reflects a higher phase of the drive of the urban people

THE CO TIEN CAVE ENCAMPMENT UNDER FIRE

THINGS happened exactly as the PLAF had predicted. After three successive attacks by the liberation forces, the puppet 2nd battalion and the HQ of the puppet 54th regiment had to cross the jungle and seek a "safer" position in the Co Tien cave, Quang Tri province.

The 2nd and 3rd combat groups of the Liberation Army were ordered to launch a surprise assault on the enemy encampment. The first shot was fired at 3.30 a.m. on June 2, 1970. All the enemy came under a rain of fire. Deafening hand-bomb explosions shook the forest. Dozens of barracks were destroyed and hundreds of enemy troops wiped out right at the first moment.

Within a few minutes, a three-men group led by H. overwhelmed the whole enemy HQ and destroyed all the signal equipment, cutting off the enemy's radio communication. The puppet regiment commander and deputy-commander, and other officers who were hiding in the fortified underground were all killed by liberation fighters with hand-bombs and fire-arms.

At the same time the two puppet infantry companies positioned around the HQ were totally wiped out by the PLAF's 2nd combat group. The 3rd combat group as a spear-head strongly attacked the enemy artillery site on the right of the HQ. Many 105- and 175mm artillery pieces and 106.7mm mortars were wrecked. After 15 minutes of fighting, both the enemy artillery batteries were destroyed. Cannon shell dumps were blasted. Fired by their initial successes, the two combat groups struck in force at the enemy engineering company on the left of the HQ. Dozens of bulldozers, military vehicles and depots of gasoline, ammunition and food stuffs were set afire, lighting the way for the liberation fighters to hunt the enemy remnants and detect a few remaining machine-gun nets.

With bold attacks, and close coordination between the two combat groups, the liberation fighters, after thirty minutes of fighting, completely controlled the battlefield until the next morning, when they were ordered to pull out.

They wiped out all the enemy in this base comprising 600 US and puppet troops including the HQ of the puppet 54th Regiment, one infantry battalion, two artillery batteries and one engineering company. They cut down the regiment commander and deputy-commander and the battalion commander. Besides, the liberation fighters destroyed dozens of howitzers and heavy mortars, many bulldozers and military cars and all the military equipment in the base. They also seized a large quantity of weapons and military equipment.

has generated a great strength driving the Saigon puppet administration into an unending and unsolvable crisis.

5 — Nixon's policy of war intensification and expansion has landed the United States deeper in great economic and financial straits which affect considerably the US-dependent economy of the South Viet Nam puppets.

Inflation has aggravated, prices continued to spiral, industrial production has been decreasing and unemployment expanding. The cutback of US aid to the puppets has further dislocated the Saigon dependent economy, hurting seriously the people's life and giving rise to a political upheaval which the US-puppets can never settle.

Thus, it is clear that whereas the US imperialists hope to broaden the war to make up for their failures in South Viet Nam, these become heavier and more generalized. While they wish to regain the initiative, they sink into greater passivity. Whereas they want to turn the tide, the general trend follows the opposite direction which is favourable for the revolution of the three countries of Indochina. They are confronted with many more complicated and difficult problems, and definitely cannot check the people's offensives and uprisings. Whatever way the war may develop, the South Vietnamese people will always uphold their determination to continue attacking the enemy under the watchword "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," and are assured of complete victory.

On reviewing the situation in the first half year, the Command of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces warmly congratulates all officers and men of the armed forces who have superbly demonstrated their resolve to fight and to win, their internationalist solidarity, and their determination to overcome all difficulties and hardships and their new and great achievements.

It enthusiastically welcomes the brilliant successes and the leaping growth of the people and armed forces of brotherly Laos and Cambodia.

Our people's great resistance war against US aggression, for national salvation is making great headway. Though meeting with all-round and repeated setbacks, the US imperialists remain very brutal and cunning.

In South Viet Nam, they continue to carry out the "pacification" plan in implementation of the "Vietnamization", beef up the puppet army and administration, ruthlessly strike at the areas controlled by the people and the resistance bases, persecute the people in the areas under their control, push ahead psychological warfare and spy activities, in an attempt to cling to South Viet Nam and realize neo-colonialism there.

Meanwhile, they are going ahead with the aggressive war in Laos.

In Cambodia, the yare prosecuting their aggression using part of Saigon army and mercenary troops from Thailand backed by American air and artillery cover, continuing their occupation of Cambodia and terror raids there, sowing division between the peoples of the three Indochinese countries, and stepping up the formation of a reactionary military alliance between their lackeys.

However, US war intensification and expansion has been undertaken in the context of a very stalemated and passive position. The US must go on with its troops withdrawal from South Viet Nam, the "pacification" and "Vietnamization" of the war plans are going to rack and ruin, the utterly rotten Thieu-Ky-Khiem stooge administration is in a complete political solitude. The anti-war movement in the United States and the rest of the world is mounting vigorously. The US authorities and their flunkeys are beset with increasing difficulties in the military, political and economic fields. Their inner contradictions have been exacerbated while the armed forces and peoples of the three Indochinese countries have been growing more and more successful.

The US aggressors and their henchmen may commit more crimes against our people and the peoples in Cambodia and Laos and cause to us more difficulties, but they surely cannot change the situation and avoid defeat.

... The revolutionary situation in South Viet Nam and the three Indochinese countries as a whole is facing very bright prospects. Infinitely great opportunities are open to our people.

Let all officers and men of the Liberation Armed Forces and all our compatriots valiantly march forward!

We shall certainly win!

The US imperialists will certainly fail!

One of US helicopters — the mainstay of the US expeditionary forces — blown up by PLAF deadly fire.

Hue students in a ferment

In early Summer, the flame-like flowers of flamboyants blooming on the streets of Hue, the ancient Imperial City, hailed the first offensive of the youth.

"We can no longer sit with our arms folded," such was the slogan of Hue's students and pupils.

In co-ordination with their mates in Saigon, Can Tho, Da Nang and other cities, they put up a fierce struggle against the oppressive regime in spite of threats, corruption, imprisonment and torture.

On May 2, as the day was dawning, nearly 4,000 students, pupils and other inhabitants of Hue demonstrated against the "Drumhead Court-martial of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique" and denounced the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique's murders. They displayed anti-Saigon streamers and shouted slogans against repression and terror, expressing their determination to fight until final victory.

Masses were held by the Catholic Students' Union and the Buddhist clergy of Hue for the souls of the Vietnamese nationals massacred in Cambodia. Various strata of the Hue population supported the movement. The fierceness of this grew in proportion to the violence of the repression.

The May 9 demonstration was a case in point. On that day, the protestors "occupied" the Trang Tien Bridge, chosen as the main battlefield and a forum against the fascist authorities. The banks of the Perfume River rang with the students and pupils' anti-war songs and slogans. The Hue population encouraged the young rebels with presents of refreshments, fans, mats and by joining their ranks.

"Forward, Hue's students and pupils!", "Freedom or death!", so ran some watchwords.

On the night of May 12, about 3,000 students and pupils of the central districts staged a torch-parade and an all-night sit-in against the arrest and ill-treatment of students in Saigon. Thousands of torches which spelled out a firm resolve and a perfect identity of views lit up the centre of Hue and were reflected in the waters of the Perfume River. The Hue people supplied the demonstrators with oil to keep the flame blazing.

1,000 representatives of the South Vietnamese City students and pupils met on July 1 at the auditorium of the Hue Faculty of Letters and unanimously demanded an all-out revolution leading to peace. To carry on a long struggle against the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique, they decided to set up a Committee of Representatives of students of all universities in South Viet Nam and a Committee for Co-ordinated Action among city students and pupils.

The convention was followed by a show of strength in the streets of Hue. The demonstrators painted slogans on roadways, attacked American cars, and Saigon public address cars. Supported by the population, they broke into a puppet education office, sacked and burned all documents. Many students held a hunger strike before the Faculty of Letters.

On July 4, Nguyen Van Thieu cynically threatened to suppress the student movement, refused to postpone the examinations and maintained the military training programme in the schools.

Through their kept-up actions, the Hue students have acquired full confidence in the eventual triumph of their cause. Such confidence was expressed in the poem *Our steps take us to peace* published by the *Students' Call* (No 21, in Hue), it was made clear in a statement by Vuong Thi Trai, Deputy Secretary of the Committee of the Hue schools, at the Students' Congress against US-Saigon fascism:

"The youth do not balk at dangers. Suppressed, they must unite in the struggle for the country and the nation, in defiance of violence from anywhere. They must rise up. Nobody can rob them of their future."

WE DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE DISMANTLING OF THE "TIGER CAGES"

"THE TIGER CAGES"

A special type of cell, they exist only in Con Son (formerly Poulo Condor) penitentiary island. There are detained those they label as "the most dangerous elements," upon whom are inflicted the most horrible atrocities.

In Con Son island prison there are 2 rows of "tiger cages" separating Section 3 and Section 4, each row, 70 metres long, consisting of 30 "cages" with their back wall adjoining. Each "cage" is about 2 metres long and 1.5 metres wide. Its top is barred with 20 iron sticks with about 10 centimetres between them. The separation walls between the rows and the cages are wide enough for the thugs to make their rounds on. From there they can watch every inmate. On top of the rows there is a corrugated iron roof at 3 metres from the summit of the cages. At the entrance of each "cage" stands a toilet bucket. Each prisoner in his cage no longer looks like a human being.

Nothing can match the "tiger cages" in atrociousness. Even in the darkest cells, once their doors are closed, the prisoners can live a life of their own, which is totally impossible with the "tiger cages." The inmates of these are watched round the clock. No conversation is allowed. Every word said is regarded as Communist propaganda, and supplies a pretext for a thorough thrashing. The silence which prevails here is a real silence of death.

The beatings can take place at any time. Blows are given with elbows, heels and knees by the thugs until the prisoners can hardly move. The punishment is generally meted out immediately after meals, to make the blows more dangerous.

The food must be fetched by the detainees at a distance from their "cages," which are opened four times a day for this purpose and for other routine like getting drinking water and emptying the toilet buckets. When out of the "cages," the inmates must hurry up and should not look up, nor to the left nor to the right. It is customary that braves hidden behind pillars suddenly rush out and with their knees hit the upper part of the prisoners' abdomens. Each "cage" is occupied by 5 to 6 inmates who take turns fetching the meals, the drinking water and emptying the toilet bucket. After each trip the man on duty feels the effects of the blows received for a few days and hardly recovers from them when his turn and a new thrashing come.

Madmen and dogs are also set on the prisoners, right in their "cages."

In 1960, over 300 people were confined in "tiger cages." Up to March 1960 alone, 19 of them were beaten to death on the spot. At present, according to 5 Saigon students just released from Con Son, the "tiger cage" population runs to 1,200.

If the detainees protest by howling in concert for example, they are doused with a mixture of ashes, sand, lime, urine and night soil diluted in water. The prisoners are blinded and choked by the lime and ashes. The thugs also make water on their heads from top of the separation walls.

The Committee for Denunciation of US-Puppet War Crimes in South Viet Nam has many times denounced the horrors and the "tiger cages" of Con Son jail.

Once again, it calls on various governments, social activists, lawyers, scientists, intellectuals, religious personalities, freedom and justice-loving people, champions of man's dignity and all men of conscience in the world to condemn vigorously the US-puppet prison regime and atrocities and urge the US imperialists and their South Viet Nam agents to free over 200,000 patriots and civilians still illegally held in their official or secret prisons.

WHAT DO AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN SAY OF TIGER CAGES ?

WHEN Bishop Amstrong's fact-finding team arrived at Poulo Condor (Con Son) in the middle of 1969, the Saigon puppet authorities, on the orders from the US, instructed the jailers there to declare that the "tiger cages" didn't exist. And the two American Congressmen were prevented from visiting these cages. Do they never exist ?.

Masters and valets were thrown in confusion. Thieu sent to Poulo Condor an investigation mission which reported that only 9,000 people were detained there and 400 unruly prisoners were temporarily confined apart. However, in the meantime, the American team received from a girl student the following statement : "I was detained for a long time in a tiger cage and find that the harsh regime there defies any comparison."

Recently, a number of Saigonese students, just released from the "tiger cages", denounced them in these terms : "The tiger cages are each 2 metres long and 1.5 metres wide. They are located in an area apart, separated by many walls, and cut off from the outer world. Five people are packed in each of these narrow cells, so that each of them has a living space of 40 cubic centimetres, just wide enough to lie down. Besides the prisoner has his legs shackled all day long even at mealtime and at night. We are forbidden to stir. Each tiger cage has a tiny exit constantly shut, and separated from the others by a wall one metre thick ; covered with corrugated iron and cement, it is very hot in the day and icy cold at night... There is no water for washing and no change of clothes... "

Regarding foods, Kiet, another student said : "Twice a day, at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., we were given slimy rice sprinkled with sand and a bit of dried fish so bitter that we call it "quinine fish." Every five persons receive two tins of water or half a litre per day ; and it is a common occurrence that we drink each other's urine. The result is that we have contracted a lot of diseases including scabies."

Nguyen Minh Tri, Nguyen Thanh Tong and Tran Van Long, other students, said :

"Owing to lack of vitamins, most of our teeth were carious, including the molar-teeth. For this reason, we 'tiger cage' dwellers, had to eat green leaves and such animals as vermins, mosquito larvae, cockroaches, wall lizards, grey lizards, winged termites, beetles... When we managed to catch one of them, we cut it into tiny parts to eat, not forgetting to keep the 'lion's share' for the sick to 'feed them up.'

On July 10, 1970, three students, former inmates of Poulo Condor held a press conference in Saigon and denounced that "at present there are between 1,200 and 1,500 people confined in "tiger cages" including 400 women, most of them students."

Cao Nguyen Loi, one of the three students who gave the conference said he had been jailed in a tiger's cage for thirteen months beginning July 1968 and subjected to all kinds of torture.

The students recently released from Poulo Condor handed to the American congressmen and an American writer, members of the fact-finding team of the US House of Representatives a 17-page report exposing the harsh penitentiary regime in South Viet Nam. The students also revealed that at Poulo Condor there were about 1,000 torturers among whom many GIs whose job was to inflict cruelties upon the patriots detained there.

"Don't tiger cages exist no more ?". Some American congressmen have given the answer. Does Mr Peros still want to "taste" now the Saigon penitentiary regime ? Well, we suggest he spend sometime in a tiger cage at Poulo Condor !

SOUTH VIET NAM'S land, people and history

The Ben Hai River

Editor's note: To better acquaint our Readers with the land, people and history of South Viet Nam we initiate in the current issue this column, starting with the Ben Hai River, which flows on the 17th parallel and has become a household word since the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

BEN HAI is a river as quiet as so many other rivers in this heroic land of Viet Nam. It runs from West to East, springing from the majestic Long Range, passing through the Rao Thanh area green with coconut palms, then Xuan My swarming with fishermen and the crowded Ban Market, finally to empty itself into the East Sea at the Cua Tung mouth, covered with sand dunes and lush willows.

Still unharnessed by man, the Ben Hai River keeps its natural configuration, and from its source to the sea, as of varying widths and depth: rather narrow (from 5 to 7 metres) and shallow upstream from the Hien Luong bridge, it widens (from 200 to 300 metres) downstream from the same bridge.

The Ben Hai took shape as early as the 14th century. One of the arteries feeding the Vietnamese soil in this province of Quang Tri, it has always been a source of river products for the Vietnamese and Van Kieu people living on its banks. Its landscape is one of Viet Nam's finest.

The Ben Hai runs through the middle of Vinh Linh district, Quang Tri province, but the two river banks are linked by the Hien Luong bridge and innumerable sampans plying between landing stages. More forceful still, invisible sentimental bonds wed the people North and South of it. A local proverb says, "Tan Trai girls choose their husbands from among Hai Chu boys, and Hien Luong boys select their wives from among Xuan Hoa girls." Doesn't it bespeak the family ties connecting the people living on both sides? So long as the Southern buffalo knows how to ford the river and graze on Northern grass, no force can indeed cut off these ties of the people.

After the Geneva Agreements were signed, the Ben Hai River became the provisional demarcation line. This was to disengage the belligerent forces, ensure the enforcement of the cease-fire, and facilitate the holding of free general elections for national reunification.

Viet Nam had always been a united country from the Hun Nghi Pass to the Ca Mau Cape. Motivated by a desire to permanently occupy Viet Nam and achieve neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, US imperialists have challenged the Geneva Agreements, prevented the stipulated free general elections and turned the provisional demarcation line into a border in their scheme to make South Viet Nam a US military base and new-type colony. US expeditionary troops have been using up-to-date armoury and indulging in mass slaughters, looting, murders and arrests of South Vietnamese patriots. Hard working people of Vietnamese and Van Kieu stocks on both banks of the Ben Hai River have fallen victims to US bombs and shells. Tens of thousands of villagers in the DMZ from Trung Cuong District, Quang Tri Province, have had their houses and gardens destroyed by B.52s. The greatest horrors of the war have been wreaked on them by the US imperialists and their agents.

Beaten in their 1965-66 dry-season strategic counter-offensive, the US aggressors, while embarking on an aeronaval war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, deployed their air force en masse in the Ben Hai river area and with thousands of tons of bombs and rockets they shattered the Hien Luong bridge and took a toll of hundreds of lives among the very puppet soldiers and policemen stationed there and members of their families. People of Vietnamese and Van Kieu nationalities living on the Southern bank of the river were put through fire and sword and forcibly driven into "strategic hamlets."

Continuing the revolutionary tradition of their forebears, our fellow-countrymen on the Southern bank joining forces with those on the Northern bank, have stood up against the US imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique to defend their dear river and their own lives. On moonlit nights, [illegible] sessions of US bombs and [illegible] boatman's songs [illegible] arm voices:

[illegible] long River flows to [illegible] land, it now temporarily [illegible]
Fearless of [illegible]
My bark, [illegible] two
[illegible] in preparation to its
[illegible] people on the Southern
bank of the Ben Hai River are standing
firm [illegible]
deepest [illegible]
between North and South [illegible] the
provisional demarcation line.

Four-millenary Viet Nam shall always be a united, peaceful, prosperous and happy country. And the Ben Hai River shall be spanned not only by one Hien Luong bridge, but tens of others linking North to South and from its smooth waters, shall unendingly rise the lusty songs of Quang Tri girls.

TAM DUONG

What do lawyers think about US violations of the Geneva agreements?

"... THE United States systematic interference and undeclared war of aggression in South Viet Nam constitutes a violation of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, of the United Nations Charter, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and of the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly's Plenary Session on the Liquidation of Colonialism."

Resolution of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers' 8th Congress in Budapest, May 31-April 5, 1964.

"... The United States has not only violated the general principles of international law, but also the commitments she had herself taken with regard to Viet Nam at the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements.

The United States has pledged to respect the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia, to refrain from interfering in their affairs (Point 12 of the Final Declaration), to strive so that these countries in full independence and sovereignty, may occupy their place in the peaceful commonwealth of nations (Point 2 of the Final Declaration) not to set up any military base there, and not to use their territories for carrying out aggressive policies.

... Since the signing of the Geneva Agreements, the United States has systematically pursued its interference in violation of the said accords: founding in Sept. 1954 of the SEATO which encompasses South VietNam in its protective umbrella, sabotage of the scheduled general elections, creation of a separate state so as to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and an American military base, massacre of the civilian population up against the foreign occupier and the governments at his service.

Declaration of the IADL Secretariat, Erfurt and Buchenwald, March 26-28 1965.

"... For the above-expounded reasons, the Tribunal holds that the responsibility for these violations and for the switch to the state of war rests with the Government of the United States of America.

From information of a historical and diplomatic nature brought to the knowledge of the Tribunal, it ensues:

— That there are ample proofs of the US intention to put its hold on South Viet Nam prior to 1954;

— That the Diem government was installed in Saigon a few weeks before the signing of the Geneva Accords by American services;

— That the Saigon authorities, at US beck and call, have systematically violated the provisions of the Geneva Accords forbidding reprisals, as has been established on several occasions by the International Control Commission;

— That, disregarding the Geneva Accords, the United States, as early as from 1954, has brought into South Viet Nam an ever-larger quantity of war material and an ever more important number of military personnel, and built bases there.

The elections provided for for July 1956 and due to be the subject of consultations in July 1955, did not take place notwithstanding many diplomatic notes of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam which repeatedly proposed to hold such consultations. From information from the United States, one may ascribe to the latter Saigon's refusal to respect the most essential provisions of the Geneva Accords.

Thus a state of foreign interference by force was created, against which the Vietnamese people had to wage a national — liberation struggle with political means until 1959, and by force of arms ever since — struggle led by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation which has gained control of considerably larger territories than those held by the United States...

Judgement of the Russell Tribunal, May 10, 1967

"... On July 1954, the day after the signing of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities, through its representative, Under Secretary of State Bedell Smith, the US undertook not to use threat of force or force to disturb the implementation of the accords and of the Final Declaration of the Conference. No pledge has ever been so soon, so deliberately and so completely reneged on.

As was recalled a year ago by a resolution of the World Lawyers' Conference at Grenoble, the Government of the United States had already, as from 1954, developed and supported in South Viet Nam an artificial authority as an instrument of its neo-colonial policy, thus interfering in Viet Nam's own affairs in contravention of previous commitments."

Declaration of the IADL, Brussels, July 17, 1969

"... The International Association of Democratic Lawyers has never ceased to denounce the criminal nature of the war waged by the Government of the United States of America against Viet Nam, and Laos. This war is not only a criminal one in principle as it is a recourse to force in contravention of the United Nations Charter, and a violation of the Geneva Agreements of 1954 on Indochina and of 1962 on Laos, but also because, as is understood by the Nuremberg Statute, it has in its process led to deliberate and systematic massacres of the civilian population."

IADL communique, May 6, 1970: on the extension of the war throughout Indochina.

SECOND ANTI-US SUMMER-AUTUMN BUMPER CROP

UNDER the slogan: "Resolute to harvest a more abundant anti-US crop in the years 1969-1970," put forth at the May 1969 congress of representatives of farmers in South Viet Nam, this year, good results have been recorded in the production of paddy, maize, sweet-potatoes, cassava roots and beans, and in cattle and poultry breeding (oxen, buffaloes, pigs, chickens, ducks) and fish rearing.

With regard to the output of paddy and other food crops, such provinces as Can Tho and Ben Tre have reaped three or four times as much as in 1968, and Tra Vinh even seven times. From 3 or 4 tons per hectare in 1968, all the provinces in the western Nam Bo have brought in from 6 to 8 tons and even 12 tons of paddy. In Central South Viet Nam generally speaking, production has increased by 20 per cent compared with last year. The provinces of Binh Thuan and Phu Yen have exceeded their targets by 4 per cent in the plains and 18 per cent in the highlands. In Quang Nam province, the yield of starchy crops has risen from 4 to 6 tons per hectare...

In animal husbandry, all localities with a good record in breeding have improved it. Poultry is reared in all peasants' households. In Nam Bo, each household keeps from 60 to 100 chickens and ducks and from 5 to 10 porkers, and each household in Trung Bo (Central) from 30 to 50 fowls and from 1 to 2 porkers.

For these achievements, the peasant has had to constantly grapple with natural calamities and scourges of war, with the guidance and assistance of the Front Committees and the Revolutionary Administration at all levels. Especially in the countering of "pacification," backbone of US "Vietnamization," the South Vietnamese peasants have had to defy, in their productive activity, bombings and chemical sprayings against their fields, rivers, villages. From the time of sowing to harvest, the farmer has to couple farming with combat, filling up of bomb craters, removing of barbed wire entanglements, building of combat trenches and A.A. shelters, dredging of ditches and embanking of dykes and dams...; he has had to work virtually round the clock between two air raids or "sweeps." In some localities, the farmers work in the light of the flares sent up from enemy posts.

In the war-torn areas of the provinces of Long An, My Tho, Binh Thuan, around the US air bases at Nuoc Man-Chu Lai..., the peasants till their fields with a camouflage, or splinter-proof headwear or portable straw-plaited individual shelters ready by them. It is these lands that have given birth to production heroes of all ages and sexes, awarded the "Good at clinging to the field" title for having turned white belts around enemy posts into "lush fields of paddy, maize, sweet potatoes or sugar canes."

The "the ricefield is the farmer's battlefield" slogan, an expression of the fortitude of the South Viet Nam patriotic peasants handed down from the first resistance war, has been maintained in the liberated rural areas where live six million members of the Liberation Peasants' Association who form their core. After the "first anti-US Summer-Autumn bumper crop" (1968-69), when the Liberation fighters and the people launched their devastating attacks and uprisings, the "Second anti-US Summer Autumn bumper crop (1969-1970) with a substantial increase in acreage and yield has made it possible for the peasants to raise further their living standard.

M.P.

IN THE CITIES

Saigon's "TU DO" Street

THE street named Catinat under French occupation has received since the birth of the Republic (i. e. the Saigon puppet regime) the fine name of Tu Do (Freedom) Street.

A sombre picture of it was given by *James Pringle* in an article released on June 24, 1970 by *Reuter*. This ex-Catinat Street, *James Pringle* said, is the symbol of present-day Saigon City going downhill. Here are some excerpts from his article:

"The rows of red jasmines which used to cover Catinat Street for decades with their shade in the sweltering heat Saigon's afternoons has been removed, and the Saigonese take this as an embodiment of the capitulation of this tree-lined boulevard in face of a prospering commerce and dwindling morals."

Dealing with the destruction of this last vestige of French urbanity, a local Saigon paper wrote: "We must admit with anxiety that we are able to witness what wil. happen to us when we breathe the bitter air of this street."

As the trees had been cut, Tu Do Street — as this ex-Catinat Street has been renamed following the ending of French domination over Viet Nam as a result of a military defeat in 1954 — was fully exposed at its worst and basest.

The article went on to say:

"Daughters of well-educated families, whom the rows of flamboyants had protected from the sun nowadays dare not stroll along what has become the street for drunkards, loafers, whores and procurers of all kinds."

A Soviet Vietnamese (puppet) marine captain sitting in La Pagode, a café with a large custom, looked at this main thoroughfare of Saigon and said: "It makes you suffocate. Every time I come to Saigon, I feel myself choked."

This captain's wrath was directed at the money-dealers, pimps, brothel-keepers, taxi-girls, pleasure-seekers, opium addicts..., those commonly called "Saigon cowboys"...

Such is "Freedom" Street under a so-called "régime of freedom" in the US "free world".

THEY SAY THEY ARE "ALLIES"

A US "ALLY"'S BLACKMAIL

THIS was the talk of Saigon city a year ago. A Saigon high-ranking civil servant was put in jail by the City Administration and his wife was advised by an influential personality of the régime to buy his release for a big sum. As she was short of money, a friend of hers came and told her that she could have at one stroke one million piasters by becoming a "girl friend" to an American officer. She had to accept the deal out of necessity, on condition that everything remained a secret between them.

However, some time after they had got off with each other, the US "ally" dropped in on his "girl friend" and asked her to give, not one million piasters, but three million, in exchange for the negative of a rather compromising picture taken by himself and showing him and the poor woman... in buff. Thereupon the civil servant's wife had to immediately fork out one million, it being understood that the remaining two million would be later paid by instalments in five years.

As our "ally" was businesslike, he soon sold to one of his (American) friends his "rights" on the woman. Thus, his was really a superb fluke: 6 months of delightful companionship, plus an earning of two million piasters. Let's pray God that "President" Thieu-Ky-Khiem will not have to do a similar transaction and refund three-fold what they receive from their "generous allies"!

"ALLIES" KNOW HOW TO CALCULATE TOO

AN "ally" was feeling lonely for "companionship" during his "warrior's rest." He found a very clever trick: first, he made an extensive investigation among those poor women who had just come to Saigon from the provinces or who were looking for a way to make both ends meet. He offered one of those women a job as his house maid with an amazing salary of 10,000 piasters per month (whereas the average salary of a puppet soldier is only 3,500 piasters). Of course, the highly attractive offer was readily accepted.

A few month later, he proposed to the woman, to show, he said, that he was sincere in his love with her. The woman was again caught in the trap, this time, a sentimental trap. But as soon as a ring had been passed around her finger, she received from him not a single sou nor even for pocket money. One day as she claimed her right to check the household budget, she was given a sound thrashing. She realized that from an employee she had become a tax-free toy. There was but one alternative left to her — to escape from the house. The matter was brought up before the police by the US "ally."

It is not known whether the police finally got hold of the woman who was obviously guilty of not "calculating" carefully before doing what she had done. As for our "generous allies," they do know how to calculate indeed!

WHEN AN "ALLY" RUNS A BUSINESS

A pretty plush but discreet villa in Truong Tan Buu street, Phu Nhuan precinct, Gia Dinh town, with twelve rooms and a large bar serving as a hall. On the price-list: from 1,000 to 2,000 Saigon piasters, — of which 700 would go to the girl supposed to be a non-paid barmaid. In all, nearly 300 girls — all "native" ones. The manager of the business: Lawrence E.W., an American citizen, 47, with a distinguished appearance.

Though patronized only by discreet customers, the house finally drew the attention of the neighbours who got alarmed at its importance. As a result, on the night of Nov. 30, 1969 the police mounted a raid on it and caught on the spot 25 girls and the manager himself.

However, this police action was a mere manœuvre, considering puppet authorities and their US "allies" share the same ethics and practices.

A MOVING STORY

MUOI flicked open a pen knife, sliced a few oranges and said to me: "Help yourself, brother. There is this kind of orange galore in my native Rach Gia province."

And she took a long draw at her cigarette and sat silently takiag in its fragrance.

I looked intently at her, trying to find in her the image of the soldier who, twenty years ago, had fought in the first war of resistance war: one of the many handsome women in that immense U Minh jungle, she had an oval face, round black eyes and a fine straight nose and wore black pyjamas and a checkered kerchief.

The several decades of her revolutionary activities and her record in the two resistances were more fascinating than the stories told me by my mother when I was a child.

When I asked her about her past life, she looked vacantly in the distance and said: "It's just like that of many other women."

BE, her husband, died in the storming of Tram Chet post at the end of 1953 when she was four months gone.

"Don't cry too much, it's no good for the baby," her mates tried to comfort her.

But how could she suppress her grief at the thought that her only child would not even know his father! That night she sat by her husband's body wrapped in a red golden-starred flag which had flown over the enemy post. She remembered the day when she had first met him. One morning, after a meeting of the company command, he cheerfully strolled into platoon commander Muoi's billet and said: "I know you're not a boy."

Muoi pretended to fly into a passion and threw her cigarette away in protest: "Nonsense! Quang Be!", she said.

He continued fixing his big black eyes on her and went on: "Chinh has told me everything about you, 'boy'. Don't try to hide anything from me." He then seized her hand.

Muoi had lived a long time among boys in the unit, but never had she felt shy like this time. She wrenched hers out of Be's hand and said calmly: "Let go of me. And stop pulling my legs."

"I like your character." Be timidly whispered to her, "I admire you and... love you, 'boy'! You don't mind my being your second in command, do you?" And he went on mildly: "I have fallen in love with you since I heard your story. Now you need only to say 'yes' and you are free to go on with your 'boy' impersonation as long as you like."

Muoi was completely flummoxed. She raised her hand and scratched her bobbed head. But she thought to herself that she must keep her head cool. Then crossing her legs, she drew another puff at her cigarette and sent out whorls of black smoke.

"Perhaps you're mistaken," she said. "In our unit, there are two or three Muoi's. My folks have written to me to get a leave in June and get married to a girl."

As if he deliberately turned a deaf ear to her and with a lump in his throat, Be said, "I love you and want to tell it to you. Of course, it is all up to you."

THE wedding took place in our Regiment No 124. Hearing of a marriage between two guerillas, old ladies and young girls came to our unit with heaps of presents.

The women said: "Now, both of you, the commander and deputy commander, are going to get married, aren't you?"

The young girls asked: "Where are the two brides?".

But the children shouted merrily: "A boy is marrying a boy."

When we made our appearance, the crowd split their sides with laughter. A woman chided us affectionately that she had been taken in when she saw both of us, the same size, in the same black army uniforms and bamboo plaited helmets.

In the Summer of 1954, Muoi returned to An Bien, to the great joy of her family. Her first child — a son — was born on the first day of the return of peace. She remembered what her husband had told her: "Bring up our child so that he will follow in our footsteps. He will enlist in the regular army." Hugging her son, she said: "Now that peace has been restored, you'll not join the army like us; you will learn to be an engineer."

But Muoi was not left to rear her son in peace. Only one month later "government" troops came and occupied all the communal house and school. The reactionaries began to raise their heads and frenziedly wreaked vengeance on former resistance members. Gun reports were frequently heard at night. Ditches and canals were full of corpses. Her house was labelled as "out of bounds." She was threatened with jail or with a "Communist denouncing" course. She entrusted her child to her parents and went into the maquis.

"Go and join our fighting comrades," her mother told her with tears in her eyes. "This life is unbearable. Don't worry about your child. We'll take good care of them, the people and we."

Muoi kissed her son who was the very spit of his father. She told him: "I'm going to join our people and try to wipe out such wicked thugs as Lam Quang Phong and avenge our dear ones. Only by getting rid of him shall we be free and happy."

She went to her brother-in-law who was a cadre of the district N F L at Bung and asked him to pass on her request to higher level. Just at that time, the provincial cadres also advocated the liquidation of the scoundrels to protect our bases and push the revolutionary movement forward.

With the assistance and protection of our fellow-countrymen, she and Uncle Nam, disguised as banana hawkers, sneaked into Ta Nien market. Later, she managed to hire herself as a servant for the aunt of Lam Quang Phong, a wicked thug, who was preparing a memorial service for his father at his aunt's house. She heard Phong beast that he had killed about one hundred people and raped the women whose husbands had regrouped to the North. She thought to herself: "Phong will have to rejoin his father". It was late in July. The house of Quang Tuan, Phong's aunt, was crowded with officers and soldiers. Before taking a nap, Phong cautiously searched all the nooks and corners of the house. Seeing him lie in a hammock, with his plump face, she wanted to make use forthwith of the scimitar which she was carrying concealed in her clothes. But trying to kill him in his swinging hammock was a bit hazardous, and stopping it to make sure of a mortal blow would arouse the suspicion of his bodyguards. She had to wait till midnight when, the ceremony over, Phong was about to take leave of his relatives, not forgetting again to brag about what he had done. Her blood was up. All of a sudden, she yanked out her arm and gave his neck a strong slash. Phong collapsed on the ground. Not paying attention to the people around, she finished him off and tried to dash out. But all the doors were shut. She was arrested and tied up.

MUOI stopped, took a draw at her cigarette and sipped some tea and said apologetically: "Don't laugh at me. The years I was disguised as a boy, I have taken to tea and tobacco."

She showed me the scar on her cheek and forehead and the marks left on her body by torture, and went on: "I was beaten to insensibility many times on that very night at the end of July. All through the seven years, I was incarcerated in eight prisons: Rach Gia, Chi Hoa, Phu Loi, Lien Hoa, Go Cong, Gia Dinh, Thu Duc... I was submitted to all kinds of torture. Look at the scar on my face: the wound was healed seven years ago. As for the eggshaped hole on my head, it was caused by a jailer at Phu Loi one day after receiving a good hiding from me, retaliated with his iron-tipped pizzle."

"All through your detention, did your mother and son pay you a visit?", I asked.

"Well, I forget to tell you that one day, as I down with may limbs stiff after a thrashing, my son, who was about ten, wrote me a letter and sent me some money and medicines. Only later did I learn that he had been selling fruit of rubber-trees he picked to earn his and his grand mother' keep.

Suppressing her surging emotion, she went on: "In jail, I missed my son terribly. Some years ago, I was set free. On my way to the liberated zone, I met messages of his age moving fast, their soft linen hat on their heads and a carbine slung across their shoulder. I sent him a letter saying I was dying to see him after all those 15 years of separation, and announced my forthcoming visit."

It was late in the afternoon when she arrived at the encampment location of her son's unit. The political instructor welcomed her with unusual warmth, which raised apprehensions in her. These were justified. He broke the news to her, in a sorrowful and apologetical way: "We feel guilty for having failed to preserve your boy for this reunion. Two days ago, he died a hero like his father."

On the same day, she visited his grave in the rain. She read on the slab: "Tran Quang Hung, 15, battalion scout, died bravely in action." In her mind's eyes, she saw him in a soft linen hat, a liberation fighter's uniform with a carbine on his shoulder: "Be darling," she whispered, "our son brought up by our people, has trodden in your step!"

MUOI was dispatched to Rach Gia as the provincial army's deputy commander. Her heavy responsibility made her forget all her sorrows. She had found a home: the liberation fighters, the young messengers, the women gunners of the Rach Gia artillery unit set up with her co-operation people who were like her husband and son.

HA DUONG

* FULFILMENT OF THE 10/10 PLAN *

TRIUMPH OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY OFFENSIVE SPIRIT

THE reports of the guns of Cuba's young revolutionaries who, under Fidel Castro, stormed Batista's Moncada fortress on July 26, 1953 seem still to resound in the vast sugar plantations and the great many sugar refineries throughout the "Island of Freedom." They put everyone on his mettle to fulfil the 1970 sugar production plan.

This historic event marked a decisive turning point in the Cuban people's fight to overthrow the reactionary ruling class and build a new Cuba by using revolutionary violence against reactionary violence. It paved the way for the national uprising which led to the liberation of Cuba on January 1, 1959.

In almost two decades, the Cuban people have been persistently upholding the July 26 tradition, crushing internal and external enemies, thwarting all the schemes of the Yankee aggressors and their henchmen. Under the leadership of the Communist Party and the Revolutionary Government with Fidel Castro at the helm, the fraternal people of Cuba have been ceaselessly altering the face of their Fatherland, braving in this tremendous effort untold difficulties caused by nature and the enemy and a heavy legacy of the past. Nothing has been able to deflect them from the path they have chosen, and in over a decade after liberation – a very short period in a nation's history—our Cuban brothers have radically changed their land into a glowing model of progress for the countries of the Western hemisphere.

Indeed, the example set by the "Island of Freedom" on the anti-imperialist front as well as on the front against poverty and social backwardness has made its impact felt ever more strongly in Latin America. Perfectly aware of this, the Cuban people wed their cause of independence and liberty to the revolutionary movements in this and other parts of the world. Che Guevara's life, full of sacrifices and self-abnegation, has supplied in this respect an unforgettable illustration for the Cuban and all Latin American peoples.

It is with the same spirit of following up the successes achieved over the past ten years in the resistance to foreign aggression and in national construction, of actively contributing to the revolutionary cause of the Latin American and world peoples that the Cubans display the firm determination to bring in a bumper sugar-cane harvest unparalelled in their history. This has made it possible for them to overcome immemorable difficulties and to produce this year a much larger quantity of sugar than in 1952, the all-time record year under the former regime.

Though half the way round the globe far away and fighting in extremely hard conditions, the South Vietnamese have been closely following the steady march ahead of their heroic Cuban brothers, and feel as proud of the latter's achievements as of their own. They are well aware of the deep sympathy that the Cuban people reserve for them and the valuable assistance that they lend to their resistance against the American aggressors. From the bottom of their hearts, they wish their Cuban brothers, now bringing into full play the glorious Moncada traditions, more brilliant accomplishments in their national reconstruction and in the defence of their land against Yankee aggression.

SVN valiant anti-US fighters are also excellent cutters on Cuba's sugar cane fields

In Brief

THE National Peace Committee including representatives of trade-union, student and women's organizations held a week of solidarity with the Indochinese peoples, starting from June 28.

In an appeal, the committee pointed out: The world peoples cannot sit idle in the face of the ever-graver situation in Indochina. They should multiply their efforts to force US imperialism into ending aggression in this part of the world.

*Word has come from Dar Es-Salaam that on July 4 Foreign Minister Mhando reiterated the position of the Tanzanian government on the Vietnamese problem at the National Assembly. He emphasized that there was no other political solution for the aggressive war in Viet Nam than the pull-out of American troops from there and Cambodia. He said that Tanzania had recognized the Provisional Revolutionary of the RSVN and voiced the solidarity of his people for the heroic Vietnamese people.

* On June 30, 22 political parties—among them the Social Democratic Party, the Central Party, the Liberal Party and the Communist Party—and Trade Union, women's, youth student, and peace organizations sent a 9-member delegation to the US Embassy in Finland. Two MPs and several leaders of mass organizations were included in the delegation. The petition handed to the Embassy said: "On behalf of 228 political parties and trade-union, women's, youth, student and peace organizations with over a million-strong membership, we, the under-signed, express our approval and support for the international movement of solidarity with Viet Nam, and demand that the United States withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam and the whole of Indochina, immediately, totally and unconditionally."

THIS year, the UAR people celebrate their 18th National Day in the jubilant atmosphere of fulfilment of their Second Five-Year Plan and fresh military successes against the Israeli aggressors, lackeys of the US imperialists.

Over the past 18 years, since the establishment of the Republic, the UAR people have recorded many achievements in the building of their country and the defence of their national independence.

During the recent years, although all efforts have been concentrated on checking the war plots and acts of the Israeli aggressors and the American imperialists against the UAR and other Arab countries in the Middle East, the UAR economy has kept on developing and the living standard has been stabilized. By April 1970, industrial production had increased by 9.5 per cent compared with last year. In agriculture, the cultivable area has exceeded norms and risen by 42,000 feddans.

In the fight to defend their fatherland and liberate the areas of the UAR illegally occupied by Israel since June 1967, the UAR government and people

THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE PYRAMIDS' COUNTRY WARMLY HAILED

have put forth a resolute fighting, striven to strengthen and develop their national defence, and united closely with the other Arab countries and the Palestinian liberation movement, ready to foil any aggression by Israel. At present, the UAR national defence forces are more powerful than ever. The UAR army and people have repeatedly inflicted on the Israeli aggressors a due punishment. According to the statement of the UAR military spokesman, in the first six months of 1970, the UAR army and people downed 42 Israeli planes. In the first five days of June 1970, they bagged eight others and captured five pilots. At the same time, the UAR artillery destroyed four tanks and armoured cars and wiped out all the personnel on board when they came to consolidate their positions north of the Suez Canal. Moreover, the UAR army and people made deep thrusts into the enemy occupied areas like Eilath harbour and the Israeli CP in Sinai peninsula, causing many adverse losses.

The South Viet Nam people, who have recorded outstanding military feats in the first half year of 1970, warmly hail the glorious achievements and successes of the fraternal UAR army and people as their own. We reiterate our resolute support for the just effort of the UAR people to defend their national independence, and insist that the Israeli aggressors withdraw from the UAR areas illegally held by them, respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the other Arab countries, and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arabs.

The UAR government and people have consistently supported the just fight of the South Viet Nam people, recognized the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with it and fully supported the ten-point overall solution of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN. The South Viet Nam people find it highly gratifying that the friendly relations and militant solidarity between the Vietnamese and UAR peoples have been strengthened with every passing day.

They sincerely wish the UAR people many more achievements in their struggle against Israeli aggression and imperialism and colonialism led by US imperialism, for their sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity, for the national liberation movement in the Middle-East and peace in the world.

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